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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Representative Charlie Melancon today joined his fellow sponsors of the House outer-continental shelf drilling and revenue sharing bill in issuing a joint statement on the progress of negotiations. Sponsors Richard W. Pombo (R-CA), John Peterson (R-PA), Neil Abercrombie (D-HI), Bobby Jindal (R-LA), Charlie Melancon (D-LA), and Adam Putnam (R-FL) announced that negotiations on the pending energy legislation will continue when Congress returns to Washington in November.

On the House-passed Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER Act):

After a quarter century of one-size-fits-all bans that make it illegal for America to develop her own energy resources from deep seas, we crafted and the House of Representatives passed bipartisan, commonsense legislation to free this country from the chains of foreign dependence.

The Deep Ocean Energy Resources (DOER) Act eliminates Washington's one-size-fits-all, do-nothing approach by granting coastal states full and complete authority over their shores for the first time ever. Under the DOER Act's flexible framework, States that wish to produce energy for America and create jobs for their citizens will be able to do just that, under their own careful discretion. At the same time, States that wish to continue energy production bans will enjoy unprecedented power to do so forever, with the additional peace of mind that comes with the understanding that Washington's Beltway will no longer controls their shores.

This commonsense compromise will deliver the energy supplies America needs to lower prices for consumers and create hundreds of thousands of family-wage jobs at the same time. In fact, the DOER Act represents the single-largest step toward American energy security passed by either chamber in Congress in more than three decades. As its title suggests, this bill finally does something meaningful - and comprehensive - to shift the current paradigm of foreign dependence to one of self-sufficiency. After years of band-aid solutions to our energy problems, the people of the country deserve nothing less. They have been asking for us to do something about energy problems, and we did.

On the Status of Negotiations with the Senate:

As such, and on behalf of the millions of consumers and the many labor unions that supported this effort, we will not rest until something truly meaningful is achieved. We have gotten very close to working out the differences between our bill and that passed by the Senate. Among the issues that remain are questions over boundary lines from the original Senate bill and how those map lines will impact the division of revenues to States.

*However, that chamber's leaders have agreed it is essential to recover the \$13 billion in lost royalty revenue from energy companies, and that **Congress must share those receipts generously with America's Gulf Coast States to help them recover from hurricane damage.*** *They have further agreed that*
future energy production revenues shall, in part, be dedicated to eliminating the funding shortfalls for Rural Schools hurt by reduced budgets because of a severe reduction in timber harvests from our public lands. And finally, the Senate has acknowledged the need to expand and diversify America's energy infrastructure beyond the Gulf of Mexico.

Therefore, we remain confident that we will complete a bill - this year - that will show the American public we understand their frustration with expensive foreign energy.

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[Click here for more information on the DOER Act .](#)